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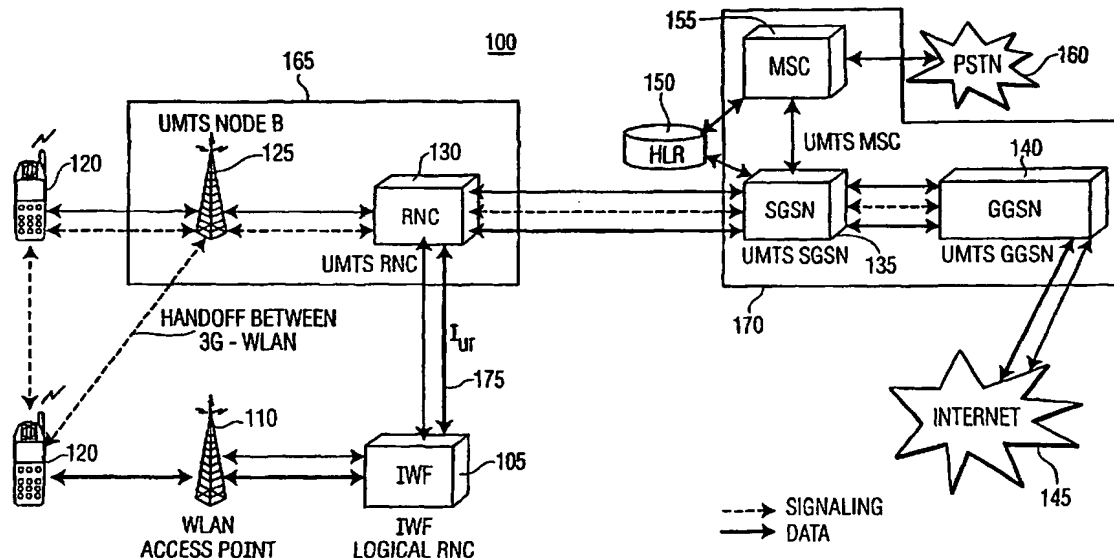
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(54) Title: **INTERWORKING FUNCTION (IWF) AS LOGICAL RADIO NETWORK CONTROLLER (RNC) FOR HYBRID COUPLING IN AN INTERWORKING BETWEEN WLAN AND A MOBILE COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK**



(57) Abstract: There is provided a method for supporting an interworking between a Wireless Local Area Network (WLAN) (110) and a mobile communications network (20). The interworking is facilitated by an InterWorking Function (IWF) (105) disposed on a WLAN (110) side of the interworking. The method comprises the step of connecting the WLAN (110) to the mobile communications network (20) by employing the IWF (105) as an auxiliary radio network controller for the mobile communications network (20), in particular, a Drift Radio Network Controller (DRNC) in a UMTS network (130).